

May 23, 1956

William T. Couch, Editor-in-Chief  
P. F. Collier & Son Corporation  
640 Fifth Avenue  
New York 19, New York

Dear Mr. Couch:

Mr. Dulles has asked me to reply to your letter of May 15, asking for an article on the Central Intelligence Agency for Collier's 1957 Year Book.

I am enclosing an article of about 500 words in answer to your request. It does not enlarge upon the year's developments as your letter suggests, because developments of this nature regarding CIA are, in general, unavailable for publication. I hope, nevertheless, that the enclosed may be of some use to you.

Sincerely,

Stanley J. Grogan  
Assistant to the Director

Enclosure

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THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

The Central Intelligence Agency was established by the National Security Act of 1947 (Section 102). This act assigned to the Agency three broad duties which had never before been adequately covered in our national intelligence structure: (1) to advise the National Security Council regarding the intelligence activities of the government and make recommendations for their coordination; (2) to provide for the central correlation, evaluation, and dissemination of intelligence relating to the national security; and (3) to assure the performance, centrally subject to National Security Council direction, of certain intelligence and related functions of common concern to various departments of the government.

Under the terms of this law, the Central Intelligence Agency did not supersede the intelligence arms long established in the departments of State, War, and Navy. It was not designed as a competitor for any intelligence agency of the government, but as a contributor to them and as a coordinator of their intelligence activities. CIA makes maximum use of the resources of existing agencies. It does not duplicate their work but does help end duplication by seeing to it that the best qualified agency in each phase of the intelligence field shall assume and carry out its particular responsibility.

Much of CIA's work is studying and analyzing foreign reports, including radio broadcasts, publications, etc., and from these studies conclusions may be drawn--but the final study is only for the NSC and

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Under the revised "CIA Act", CIA may have a civilian as Director and a civilian as Deputy Director, but it may not have a military officer as Director and a military officer as Deputy at the same time. The American public understands this system and has faith in it.

As of 1955, CIA has, in Mr. Allen Welsh Dulles, a civilian Director of long experience in various intelligence activities, whose work in Switzerland in World War II helped bring about the surrender of German forces in Italy. Mr. Dulles was one of the planners of CIA and was one of its principal operating officials for some time before becoming Deputy Director under his predecessor, General Walter Bedell Smith. Experienced, mature, understanding, Mr. Dulles, in April 1953, brought into the Agency as Deputy, a military intelligence expert, Lt. General Charles P. Cabell, formerly Director of the Joint Staff of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Intelligence Director of the Air Force.